Claims

1. A method of forming a line on a ground surface comprising the steps of:
forming one or more slits in the ground surface; inserting a line of material in the or each slit such that part of the material is visible above the ground surface.

2. A method as claimed in Claim 1 wherein the or each slit is formed by a cylindrical blade.

3. A method as claimed in Claim 2 wherein the blade has a sharpened or tapered edge.

4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the surface is wholly or substantially earth.

5. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the method comprises forming between two and four slits.

6. A method as claimed in Claim 5 wherein the method comprises forming three slits.

7. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein a plurality of slits are formed, and the inter-distance between the slits is between 10-40 mm.

8. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the surface is rolled after the insertion of the or each line of material.

9. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein that part of the material visible above the ground surface comprises discrete fibres.

10. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims wherein the material is inserted in the slit by travel on the slit-forming means.

11. A method as claimed in Claim 10 wherein the material travels on the edge of the slit-forming means towards and into the surface.

12. A method as claimed in Claim 11 wherein the material is located in the slit by travel on the slit-forming means as the slit is being formed.

13. A method as claimed in any one of claims 10 to 12 wherein the material is folded over the edge of the slit-forming means.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13 wherein the material is folded equally on either side of the edge of the slit-forming means along a longitudinal central axis of the material.

15. A method of forming a line on a ground surface comprising the steps of:
locating a slit-forming means having at least one blade on the ground surface, such that a portion of the blade enters the ground surface;
locating a fibrous or woven material on each blade;
traversing the slit forming means along the path of the intended line;
allowing the material to travel with each blade into the ground;
leaving the material in each slit formed such that part of the material is visible above the ground surface.

16. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the method further comprises forming a straight line on a ground surface comprising the further steps of:
locating a light beam at one end of the line to be formed;
following the path of the beam.

17. A method as claimed in claim 16 wherein the light beam is a laser beam.

18. A vented fabric material suitable for use in forming a line on a ground surface according to the method as defined in any one of claims 1-17.

19. A material as claimed in Claim 18 comprising a woven material having a core woven section and free weft fibres on each side.

20. A material as claimed in Claim 19 wherein that part of the material which is intended to be visible above the ground surface in use to form the line is partially or substantially the free weft fibres.

21. A material as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 20 wherein at least that part of the material intended to be visible above the ground surface in use is partially or substantially resistant to sunlight, in particular UV light.

22. A material as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 21 wherein the material is at least partly open or has an open structure, through which the ground under the ground surface, or anything growing in the ground under the ground surface, can traverse therethrough.

23. A material as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 22 wherein the material is a polymer material.

24. A material as claimed in Claim 23 wherein the material is a polypropylene.

25. A material as claimed in Claim 24 wherein the material is polypropylene with a solid centre line and weft tapes.

26. A material as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 25 wherein the material is a geotextile.

27. A process for forming a vented fabric material as defined in any one of claims 18 to 26, wherein lines of weft material are run, and intermittent lines of warp fibres are run thereinbetween, so as to form portions of woven material and portions of weft fibre material only.

28. A process in claimed in Claim 27 wherein the so-formed material is cut across each weft fibre portion to create a vented fabric material as defined in any one of claims 18 to 26.

29. A line on a ground surface whenever formed by a method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 17.

30. A line on a ground surface whenever formed by a material as claimed in any one of claims 18 to 26.

31. A line-forming apparatus, which apparatus comprises one or more rotatable blades, each blade being adapted to form a slit in the

ground surface, and adapted to feed around its edge a material for partially inserting into the slit.

32. Apparatus as claimed in claim 31 further including a roller following the or each blade along the ground surface.

33. Apparatus claimed in claim 31 or claim 32 wherein the apparatus comprises three offset and parallel rotatable blades, each having an associated material-feeding means.

34. Apparatus as clamed in any one of claims 31 to 33 wherein the apparatus further comprises a light beam or a light beam receptor, and wherein the apparatus follows the line of a light beam either directly or via the receptor to form a straight line.